

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00949 222106Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12
ARA-10 EA-10 /121 W
-----089952 222117Z /42

O 221025Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7934
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0949

JIDDA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH UK US TZ
SUBJ: RHODESIA: NYERERE'S THOUGHTS ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1220

1. IN POST MORTEM SESSION WE HAD THIS MORNING ON
YESTERDAY'S CONVERSATION WITH NYERERE AND AFTER RE-READING OUR
REPORTING CABLE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROVIDE DEPARTMENT AND INFO
ADDRESSEES WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF NYERERE'S COMMENTS REGARD-
ING TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT.

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2. NYERERE SAID THAT BRITAIN, AS THE COLONIAL POWER, "MUST
ADMINISTER THE DECOLONIZATION." BRITISH ARE PAST MASTERS AT
ARRANGING TRANSFERS OF POWER. SURELY THEY COULD PROVIDE A
CLEAR AND SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RESIDENT
COMMISSIONER WOULD NEED EXTENSIVE POWERS DURING THE TRANSITIONAL
PERIOD. BUT WHILE THE RESIDENT COMMISSION MUST HAVE THE STRONGEST
ROLE IN THE GOVERNING PROCESS, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MUST BE

GIVEN A "SIGNIFICANT" PART IN THAT PROCESS.

3. NYERERE SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO PRESS THE BRITISH TO STATE HOW THEY CAN NARROW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM AND THE PF ON THE QUESTION OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S POWERS. THE UK SHOULD "DEFINE THEIR POSITION CLEARLY AND PUT IT FORWARD." HE OBSERVED THAT THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WOULD BE, IN EFFECT, HEAD OF STATE AND PRIME MINISTER. THE NATIONALISTS, INCLUDING MUZOREWA ("EVEN THOUGH HE'S MADE A FOOL OF HIMSELF"), BUT NOT SITHOLE AND CHIRAU, WOULD ACT AS A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS UNDER THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

4. THE BRITISH, HE ADDED, SHOULD GIVE UP ON THEIR EFFORT TO GET NKOMO TO JOIN THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT, SINCE THEY HAVE NO CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING IN THIS. AGAIN, THE UK SHOULD DEFINE AND LAY ON THE TABLE A NEW POSITION ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A REASONABLE ROLE FOR THE PF AND THE BISHOP, WITH ULTIMATE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.
LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, PERSONAL OPINION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA00949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-1016
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780338/aaaabfuv.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1563c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAR ES SALAAM 1220
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3240797
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: NYERERE'S THOUGHTS ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US, TZ, (NYERERE, JULIUS K)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1563c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014